## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 DPW-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 /076 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:JRJOHNSON:JY APPROVED BY EA/VLC:JDROSENTHAL EA/P:MSMITH S/PRS:FZBROWN

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O 012310Z MAR 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OREP, OVIP, VN, LA, US

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS TO PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ANNOUNCED

1. AT NOON BRIEFING MARCH 1, DEPARTMENT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS APPOINTED FOUR MORE MEMBERS TO THIS COMMISSION WHICH WILL VISIT SOUTHEAST ASIA. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS SPOKESMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT:

BEGIN TEXT:

AT THE REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT, THE FOLLOWING FOUR DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS HAVE AGREED TO SERVE ON THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION WHICH WILL TRAVEL SHORTLY TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, TO SEEK AN ACCOUNTING FOR AMERICANS MISSING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THERE:

MRS. MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND
FORMER SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD OF MONTANA
CONGRESSMAN G. V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY OF MISSISSIPPI
FORMER AMBASSADOR CHARLES YOST

AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED THE COMMISSION WILL BE LED BY UAW PRESIDENT LEONARD WOODCOCK. END TEXT.

- 2. IN ANSWERING PRESS QUESTIONS AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT THE PRESS SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT WE EXPECT A SMALL STAFF FROM THE DEPARTMENT WILL ASSIST THE COMMISSION, IT WILL BE LED BY JAMES ROSENTHAL, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF VLC. THERE WILL ALSO BE A SMALL DOD REPRESENTATION. THE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE LAO AUTHORITIES BUT THAT HE HAD NOTHING MORE ON THIS RIGHT NOW. THE COMMISSION IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE WEEKEND AFTER NEXT FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT THINK IT APPROPRIATE FOR PRESS TO ACCOMPANY THE COMMISSION. ASKED IF THERE HAS BEEN ANYTHING NEW FROM THE VIETNAMESE SIDE THAT WOULD LEAD US TO BE OPTIMISTIC, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT BEING WILLING TO RECEIVE THE DELEGATION IN ITSELF IS HELPFUL.
- 2. BEGIN LOU FYI FOR PARIS. SEVERAL NEWSMEN WILL APPARENTLY BE ASKING THE VIETNAMESE FOR VISAS AND WILL SEEK THE DEPARTMENT'S HELP IN OBTAINING THESE VISAS. THE PRESS SPOKESMAN TOLD NEWSMEN THAT WE WILL MAKE THE VIETNAMESE AWARE OF THIS PRESS INTEREST. UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, YOU SHOULD MERELY TAKE THE NAMES OF NEWSMEN WHO INQUIRE ABOUT POSSIBLE VISAS FOR VIETNAM AND TELL THEM WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE MATTER. YOU SHOULD ADVISE THEM THAT MATTER IS ESSENTIALLY ONE FOR THEM TO WORK OUT DIRECTLY WITH VIETNAMESE. END FYI. END LOU. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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## Message Attributes

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